

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT : ROTHSCHILD, Max F., et al.  
SERIAL NO : Continuation of 09/538,165  
FILED : March 30, 2000  
TITLE : GENETIC MARKERS FOR IMPROVED MEAT CHARACTERISTICS  
IN ANIMALS (MC4R)

Grp./A.U. : 1634  
Examiner : Switzer, Juliet C.  
Conf. No. : 9037  
Docket No. : P04486US0

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Mail Stop Patent Application  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

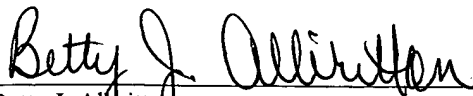
Dear Sir:

In response to the communication from the Examiner dated June 9, 2003, a final rejection and an Advisory Action dated March 5, 2004, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks relative to reconsideration of the present application. This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Continuation Application.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL**

I hereby certify that this document and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Mail Code Patent Application, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, prior to 5:00 p.m. on 1 day of April, 2004.

  
Betty J. Albritton  
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